

REMARKS

Claims 16-51 are pending in the present application. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's statement that objected claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34-37 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action, mailed December 5, 2008, at page 8). Accordingly, in order to expedite prosecution of the application and without conceding to the propriety of any rejections, Applicants have amended claims 16-18 to incorporate the limitations of human 28S rRNA and the context of the premature stop codon from objected claims 36 and 48, respectively. In view of the amendments to claims 16-18, dependent claims 36, 37 and 48 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as filed and do not add new matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue to subject matter of the claims pending prior to the current amendments in the present application or a related application.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 16, 19, 41 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Shimizu *et al.*, 2002, Nucl. Acids Res. 30: 2620-2627. The claim amendments obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47, and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann *et al.*, WO 01/44516 ("Beckmann") in view of Rana, U.S. Patent No. 6,503,713 ("Rana"). Claims 27, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann in view of Rana as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47, and 49 -51, and further in view of Shiroki *et al.*, 1999, Methods in Molecular Biology 118: 449-458. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann in view of Rana as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47, and 49 -51, and further in view of Yang *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 7,354,709. Claims 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Beckmann in view of Rana as applied to claims 16-24, 38, 39, 41-44, 47, and 49 -51, and further in view of Berger *et al.*, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0162345. In view of the claim amendments, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present claims meet all the requirements for patentability. Consideration and entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file of the application is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of all rejections and consideration of the amended claims are requested.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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